

# Circuit

A monthly employee publication of the Bonneville Power Administration

## Spring breaks out



Spring broke out in the Northwest last month. And BPA people and those from our neighbor agencies seemed to brighten up along with the early blooms. (Top) A fisheye lens caught the tree canopy in the Lloyd plaza courtyard near Portland headquarters. (Left) A BPA employee on a lunch stroll along what could be called cherry blossom avenue. (Right) Three U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employees enjoy lunch in the federal complex cul-de-sac garden near headquarters — (left to right) Sue Godfrey, Lily Young and Jacintha Williams.

Photos by Jack Odgaard

Portland police turned back a convoy of fishing boats on trailers. In a rainy Seattle, tribal youth drummed while schoolchildren danced in puddles. In Boise, environmentalists camped for hours in the lobby, quietly waiting their turn to testify.

In Lewiston, Idaho, farmers and mill workers appeared anxious. They said dams were their bread and butter. Local residents in Kalispell, Mont., said salmon were not the problem in the Flathead and the Clark Fork rivers.

Those were some of the scenes and some of the views voiced at the federal meetings on salmon held in February and March.

A federal caucus of nine government agencies held 15 meetings across the Northwest and Alaska. The purpose was to take public comments on plans to save salmon in the Columbia Basin. It was one of the largest public processes ever staged in the region.

Thousands of people showed up to listen, testify or demonstrate their views at hearing sites. All demonstrations were peaceable. The caucus member agencies are BPA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Environmental Protection

Agency, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management

The public came to give their views on the major efforts to help save the salmon. They talked about the All-H Paper, a comprehensive multi-species approach to restoring salmon. They addressed the Corps' Environmental Impact Statement on lower Snake River salmon migration. And they expressed their opinions on the NMFS and USFS biological opinions on the Federal Columbia River Power System. Most speakers said what they thought were the best alternatives for saving salmon. The alternatives are contained in the All-H Paper.

As the meetings showed, the plight of Columbia River salmon has become a cause célèbre among environmental groups. National public interest groups such as American Rivers and the National Wildlife Federation were well organized, media savvy and vocal. So were their local groups. They trooped in with placards and inflated vinyl fish and danced around in salmon costumes reminiscent of the Charlie the tuna TV commercials of years ago. Environmental groups packed meeting rooms and many of the speakers testified passionately. They said the key to saving salmon was to breach the four lower Snake River dams.

Those who wanted other means to save salmon were well represented in Pasco and Lewiston but less so in the urban areas where environmentalists held sway. In all, the caucus received about 65,000 individual comments. Postcards accounted for 35,000 and e-mail 20,000. Letters accounted for 3,500, and 1,500 people testified at the meetings.

The comment time closed March 17. The testimony is now being collated. A report is due later this spring, as is a biological opinion. (See the celebration photos on page 6.) ◀

Ed Mosey is BPA's chief press officer



Paul Norman stakes a mature tree he's planting at the Ross Complex. The head of the Power Business Line was one of about 90 volunteers who turned out for BPA's Earth Day projects in mid-April. Employees at Ross planted a mix of 130 established trees five to 10 feet tall. Headquarters folks later went to the Sandy River delta near Troutdale, Ore., to plant 150 to 200 sapling white oaks. See the full story of BPA's year 2000 Earth Day project — and a photo gallery of people planting in the centerfold.

Photo by Jack Odgaard

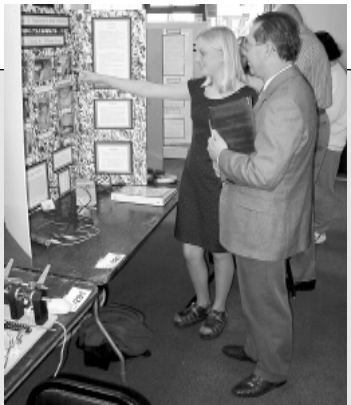
## Groups stay close in retirement

Last month's *Circuit* had an article and photos from the annual St. Patrick's Day lunch and reunion. Each year, retirees and current employees get together to swap stories, renew old friendships and have fun.

But the annual event at Portland isn't the only time that retirees get together. The BPA family has spawned many retirement groups. Some meet frequently for lunch or breakfast. Some get together for regular social outings — golf, dancing, playing cards. Some book group trips.

In recent years the *Circuit* also reported on some groups who get together for more unusual pastimes. A 1998 story and photos covered a group of retirees turned vintners. Ed Sienkiewicz, Larry Larson, Gary Fuqua and others went into the wine growing and producing business — but just for their own wine tasting pleasure.

This edition has articles about some other retirees who meet regularly. Read about these Spokane, Portland and Vancouver folks on page 7. ◀



Orion Albro judges the display of 9<sup>th</sup> grade student Elise Thorne from Selah, Wash. She won the BPA Power Stewardship Award of \$100 for her project. It's title was "Find a transformer's peak efficiency by testing at different loads." See the article and photos on the Washington State Science Fair and BPA volunteers who made it a success on the back page.

Photo by Keith Lawson

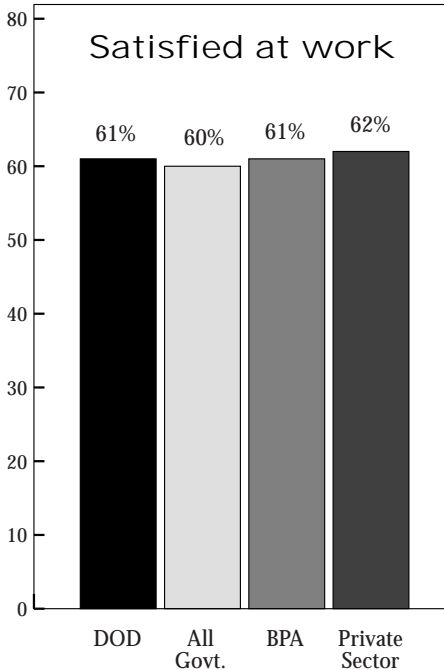
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### Satisfied at work



Percent of workers satisfied or very satisfied with their jobs. From the most recent surveys of the Department of Defense, overall government, BPA and the private sector.